Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7408

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: EG SU

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON NUMAYRI-MAHDI MEETING

REF: KHARTOUM 2374

1. AHRAM JULY 19 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON "SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT IN SUDAN: NUMAYRI MEETS WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI".

ARTICLE, BASED SOLELY ON WIRE SERVICES'S REPORTS ON NUMAYRI'S MONTHLY ADDRESS TO SUDANESE NATION, EMPHASIZES NUMAYRI-MAHDI PORT SUDAN MEETING "TO EFFECT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION", WHILE GUMHURIYYA, IN SHORTER FRONT-PAGE VERSION, STRESSES ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELEASE OF 100 POLITICAL PRISONERS. BOTH ARTICLES NOTE THAT NUMAYRI HAS DISPATCHED DELEGATIONS TO ATHENS, TRIPOLI, LONDON, PARIS, AND JIDDA TO DISCUSS WITH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS STEPS NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

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2. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS TEND TO VIEW NUMAYRI REGIME AS DECIDELY VULNERABLE TO COMBINED PRESSURES FROM EGHIOPIA ANDLIBYA, ORCHESTRATED, IN THINKING OF GOE, BY SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH RECONCILIATION BETWEEN NUMAYRI AND SADIQ AL-MAHDI WOULD PRESUMABLY STRENGTHEN NUMAYRI'S POSITION, GOE LIKELY TO REMAIN APPREHENSIVE OVER AL-MAHDI'S CONNECTIONS WITH LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA. THIS

APPARENT INTERNAL STRENGTHENING OF NUMAYRI'S POSITION WOULD ONLY COME AS RELIEF TO GOE IF IT CONVINCED THAT AL-MAHDI HAS SEVERED THESE CONNECTIONS.
EILTS

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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PGOV, EG, SU, ET, LY, UR, (NUMAYRI, JAFAR MUHAMMAD), (AL-MAHDI, SADIQ)

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